

Dear Members of the Environment Committee,

Planning, Design, and Construction of bikeways and multi-use trails in Connecticut have been very slow, due to lack of state funding in recent years. As you may be aware, the most recent grant round for Recreational Trails in 2021, and recently announced by DEEP, had only \$3 million available for 65 applications requesting \$22 million. The \$3 million in bonding authorization was divided among twenty worthy projects, but another \$7-11 million in proposals were unable to be funded, showing great demand for these projects.

Please pass HB 5291 that will increase the annual bonding authorization for bikeways from \$3 million to \$6 million. Our state will benefit in many ways as more active transportation projects are completed.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter

Christopher Darby
Portland, CT
Educator, Cyclist, Gadfly